

National Congress Bulletin

FEBRUARY 1958 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 25, NO. 6

Memo to Local Presidents:

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS of this nation are no accident. They came into being because a free people willed that they should. They spread everywhere across the country because of a free people's determination that no child in America should be deprived of the schooling he needs to prepare him for intelligent citizenship in a government based on democratic principles.

- In his speech to the nation in November, President Eisenhower cited the urgency of our educational tasks and the need for every community to be concerned about the quality of its educational program. He appealed specifically to school boards and parent-teacher associations to scrutinize school programs to determine whether or not they meet the demands of the era we are entering.

- The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has accepted the President's assignment. Parent-teacher members will continue to take a good look at their schools. They will cooperate with school boards and education associations to improve the schools that need improvement. They will continue to support plans to secure needed classrooms. They will do all they can to get more well-qualified teachers. They will participate in curriculum studies and support plans to revise materials and methods so as to make all areas of study stimulating, interesting, and challenging as well as informative.

- But no clear-thinking member of the National Congress would wish to change our American system of education for the kind of educational system that some other nation finds suited to its needs and ideologies. Perhaps we should remind ourselves that since 1901 Nobel prizes for scientific achievement have been awarded to thirty-five Americans but to only two Russians.

- Our success in providing universal



Mrs. Rollin Brown

twelve-year education is without parallel in history. This effort undergirds our commitment to equality of opportunity for all citizens. Moreover, our schools have served us well. From them have come the inquiring minds that have made possible the industrial, scientific, and technological advances which have given the American people the high standard of living they enjoy. From them have come the geniuses who are responsible for extending the life span of our people. All these advances we have shared with the world.

- As we continue to look at education let us not forget that we need many varieties of well-trained and talented manpower and that many of these are in short supply. Therefore we shall resist the clamor of unthinking persons for "crash" programs that would attempt to push all our abler students into science and engineering. What is needed is acceptance of the recommendation of the Committee for the White House Conference that we develop guidance and counseling programs that will enable us to identify our capable children in the elementary grades. Counseling with parents and students alike will result in pointing our able young people toward the several fields of acute per-

sonnel shortage—science among them. Fortunately in this country the ultimate choice of a career rests with the individual.

- We shall not wish to see these well-qualified young persons withdrawn from their normal school situations and educated in isolation. The answer here is reduction of class size so that individual attention can be given to each student's needs. Perhaps this is one point at which we might emulate the Russians, whose teacher-pupil ratio is one to seventeen. Our national average is one to twenty-seven, and in too many classes it ranges as high as one to forty and more.

- It is clear that the key to achievement of any or all of our goals is the dedicated, competent teacher. This suggests that a look at education includes a look at teacher education institutions. Are they equipped to give prospective teachers the kind of preparation required "to meet the demands of the era we are now entering"? If not, what can be done to improve their status?

- In all these studies we shall be mindful that our country needs not only more scientists to conquer outer space, but more generously informed minds in every area of human thought and action.

(To be continued next month.)

MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

**JOIN US IN OMAHA
for the
1958 CONVENTION
May 18, 19, 20, 21, 1958**

JOIN US IN OMAHA

for the Sixty-second National Congress Convention
May 18, 19, 20, 21

IF YOU ... want to strengthen your stand for children and youth

IF YOU ... seek inspiration and ideas for P.T.A. work

IF YOU ... would grow in parent-teacher leadership capacity through fine example

IF YOU ... are concerned about the effectiveness of school curriculums

IF YOU ... like to make new friendships and to renew old ones

IF YOU ... enjoy the side lights and fun of convention attendance

YOU'LL WANT TO JOIN US IN OMAHA, Nebraska, to participate in programs that are skillfully tuned to the times, as evidenced by the theme, "The Family and the Community: Each Shapes the Other—the P.T.A. Serves Both for Mature Minds in America." Events today are fast moving, and the issues involved, as discussed by Mrs. Brown in the February 1958 *National Parent-Teacher*, "do not merely call for action; they demand it . . . they challenge us to think wisely and to act maturely."

The national convention is a major step in setting the pace for action, and what P.T.A.'s might do to meet the challenge will be ably analyzed by a group of unusually well-qualified persons, all of whom have wide resources for the information and inspiration you are looking for. Among them are: Leroy E. Burney, M.D., Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service; David H. Dawson, vice-president, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company; Lawrence G. Derthick, U.S. Commissioner of Education; René J. Dubos, M.D., Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Herold C. Hunt, School of Graduate Education, Harvard University; Chet Huntley, NBC radio and television journalist; Irene M. Josselyn, M.D., psychiatrist, Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis; George P. Larrick, U.S. Commissioner of Food and Drugs; Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, chief, U.S. Children's Bureau; and Paul H. Sheats, associate director, University of California Extension.

Registration will be at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, where general sessions also will be held. Nearby are the



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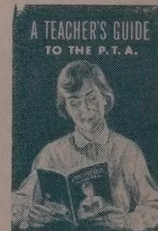
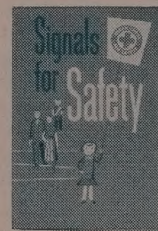
• Omaha, with the camera on the section of the city described by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce as the "world's largest livestock market and meatpacking center."

hotels that plan to minister to your comfort, including the Sheraton-Fontenelle, the convention headquarters. Blanks for hotel reservation may be obtained from your state congress office.

Sunday at the convention is a rather special time—a day of beautiful music; stirring words, with the vesper service this year by the Rev. Paul C. Reinert, S.J., president of the St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri; and the getting together of National Congress life members. Exhibits, too—an important part of the inspiration offered by the convention—will be ready for viewing in leisure minutes. Indeed, Sunday in Omaha will be an appropriate send-off to a great convention.

Delegates are selected or authorized, according to National Congress Bylaws, by the board of managers of a state, but other members are equally as welcome at the convention. Although they do not have voting privileges, upon registration they may of course participate in the various workshops, attend the meetings and dinners, and enjoy the other conventiontime activities. So write to your state office early for your hotel reservation blank, and watch for

more convention details in future issues of the *National Congress Bulletin*, your state bulletin, and the *National Parent-Teacher*.



HAVE YOU ORDERED COPIES FOR YOUR P.T.A. BOOKSHELF?
PRICE: 50 cents a copy.

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See the October 1957 issue of the *BULLETIN* for a list of parent-teacher publications.

NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL OFFICES



Mrs. Clifford N.
Jenkins



Mrs. James C. Parker



Galen Saylor



Mrs. A. Kenneth
Spencer

• Four national officers will be elected at the annual national convention in Omaha next May. Following is the list of nominees presented by the National Congress nominating committee:

President: Mrs. James C. Parker, Grand Rapids, Michigan

First vice-president: Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, Long Island, New York

Secretary: Mrs. A. Kenneth Spencer, San Gabriel, California

Treasurer: Galen Saylor, Lincoln, Nebraska

Each of these persons has accepted the nomination, and is well qualified to serve the Congress in a post of great responsibility.

Members of the nominating committee are Mrs. Fred L. Keeler, Michigan, chairman; Mrs. H. Cecil Baker, Utah; Mrs. Ruth Gagliardo, Kansas; Henry F. Hemholz, M.D., Minnesota; and Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, Rhode Island.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Assistant editors: Cora G. Barron, Marian Rolan

National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

April 16, 1957—
January 9, 1958*

(Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?)

ALABAMA: Dr. John R. McLure, Tuscaloosa; James E. Swindull, Prichard

CALIFORNIA: Mrs. Florence Brown, Alhambra; Dr. Arthur F. Corey, San Francisco; Eldon J. Covell, Monterey; Mrs. Edith Holdener, Vallejo; Mrs. Laurence B. Martin and Aurelia Pennekamp, Los Angeles

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NEW YORK: Basil O'Connor, New York City

NORTH CAROLINA: Mrs. John Q. Adams, Willow Springs; Mrs. J. Z. Watkins, Charlotte

NORTH DAKOTA: Dr. O. A. DeLong, Mayville

OHIO: Dr. Claude V. Courter, Mrs. Courter, Cincinnati; Mrs. J. Robert Greene, Springfield; Don D. Longnecker, Dayton; Mrs. Harry Meyer, Amherst; Dr. Mark C. Schinnerer, Lakewood; Mrs. Millard Sigler, Cleves

OREGON: Mrs. Russell Case, Portland

TENNESSEE: Mrs. L. M. Graves, Memphis; Mrs. Farris Vaden, Union City

TEXAS: M. S. Jennings, San Antonio; Mrs. John Lambert, Fort Worth; Charles M. Rogers, Amarillo; Mrs. John Stafford, Duncanville; Mrs. J. M. Woodson, Temple

UTAH: Dr. J. C. Moffitt, Provo

VIRGINIA: Mrs. Albert E. Farwell, Vienna; Mrs. W. W. Kavanaugh, Roanoke

WASHINGTON: Mrs. Fern E. Tuski, Seattle

WEST VIRGINIA: Mrs. Delmas Miller, Morgantown

WISCONSIN: Mrs. James Lohr, Sheboygan

► Proceeds from National Life Memberships, according to National Congress policy, are used to augment the Endowment Fund, which, in turn, serves to extend and perpetuate parent-teacher work for all citizens of the United States and its territories. Because the Fund needs to grow more rapidly to take care of mounting costs of such service, Life Membership friends of the Congress recently were invited to participate in the all-important plan. They were asked to consider the possibility of presenting a gift to the Fund as a memorial for, or in honor of, a friend or relative and to try to enlist the interest of philanthropic citizens in adding to the Fund. In response to the invitation, gifts have been received from:

Mrs. Eugene Meyer, Washington, D. C., \$100.00.

Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers, for Mrs. Horace H. Johnson of Harrisburg, \$50.00.

Alice Birney Robert, Goucher College, Towson, Maryland, \$25.00.

The invitation is open. Would you too like to participate?

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD
Immediate Past President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



Phoebe Apperson Hearst, National
Congress co-Founder

* A list of all other life members appears in the 1958 Proceedings, soon to be off the press.



I Visited the Birney Family

MRS. JOHN. E. HAYES, *Chairman*
Committee on Programs and Founders Day

• Mrs. Theodore Birney and her three daughters: Alonsita, eldest by sixteen years, and Catherine (left), who was two years older than Lillian (right).

THE WHEEL OF FATE, spinning pleasantly, permitted me last autumn to dine with two of the three daughters of our Founder, Alice McLellan Birney. Mrs. Harold Walker (Alonsita), the eldest daughter, was hostess, entertaining for her sister Catherine, the Baroness Von Schoen, who had come from her home in Germany for a visit with Washington friends and relatives; her charming and vivacious granddaughter, Suzanne Walker, whose marriage to a young army officer would soon carry her to a European outpost for American troops; and your national Founders Day chairman. It was a joyous reunion of friends.

Queen Elizabeth of England was still in Washington that day, so, quite naturally, we talked about the international situation and the prospect for a peaceful settlement in the Near East. It was not long, however, before our conversation turned to the P.T.A., Founders Day, and our first national president, Mrs. Birney.

"Do you remember," said the Baroness, "the day of the mud?" Mrs. Walker laughingly nodded as her sister continued, "On that long-ago day we were, as always, dressed for the afternoon in our prettiest frocks. Mornings we might play in dark gingham, but after luncheon Mama expected us to be 'little ladies' and look the part. That afternoon we wore frilly, white dimity dresses with broad ribbon sashes, ribbons in our hair, and our newest shoes. I remember that we walked sedately down the path to a great oak tree on the edge of our neighbor's property, where we loved to play make-believe games with our dolls. That day a wonderful mud puddle had been left under the tree

by a recent rain, and what a heavenly time we had in it! In less than half an hour our crisp white dresses were a sight! We had mud on our hands, on our shoes, and even on our freshly brushed hair. Daubs of mud were everywhere on those dresses that had been so clean and white.

"What did Mama do? She took each of us by the hand and led us quickly to the newly constructed laundry house, filled the big tub with water, and dunked both of us—shoes, dresses, hair bows, and all—in that tub of water!"

"Yes," added Mrs. Walker, laughing, "Mama always provided punishment appropriate to the 'crime.'"

Catherine nodded approval, saying, "But she was infinitely kind, always. I remember leaving my wooden doll out under the big oak tree once when we were called in for supper. During supertime a fearful storm came up. The rain beat against the windows as though to break them in bits, the wind lashed the trees savagely this way and that, and the roar of thunder and the blinding flashes of lightning were terrifying to all of us children.

"Suddenly I remembered my doll out there in the storm under the big oak, and I burst into tears, wailing in tune with the storm. What did Mama do but throw a shawl over her head and go right out into that storm and darkness to get my precious doll for me. I can never forget it or her keen understanding and kindness."

Modestly, neither of them said a word about the thousands upon thousands of

child study and parent education groups that have enriched American parents, teachers, and homes, all because of Mrs. Birney's belief that parents really wanted to rear their children well, if only they might learn the necessary skills.

I asked if Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Hearst were close friends before their mother appealed to Mrs. Hearst for help in launching the great experiment known as the National Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Walker replied, "Mama of course knew Mrs. Hearst and knew of her great interest in children, because of the many kindergartens she had established and maintained with her own personal resources. So it was reasonable for Mama to think that Mrs. Hearst would catch the vision of an organization that was dedicated completely to the well-being of children and family life. Their relationship was not based on a long-time friendship, but it took on a kind of spiritual quality—a meeting of minds and hearts and interests. I believe all will agree that they both were dedicated women. Certainly, time has proved it."

We who have read *Where Children Come First* and other histories of the Congress know that Mrs. Hearst did catch the vision and that her generosity made possible the organization of the group that has now become our National Congress of Parents and Teachers,

(Continued on page 5)



Mrs. John E. Hayes

(Continued from page 4)

known throughout the world for its influence in the improvement of community relationships in our nation.

Founders Day 1958 marks the sixty-first anniversary of that significant event which changed the outlook for children in America—the founding of the parent-teacher movement on February 17, 1897, in Washington, D. C.

The P.T.A. has become so much a part of the American scene that we are prone to accept its influence as a natural and normal part of our culture. Even we who work diligently in a P.T.A. sometimes fail to consider the extent of its services or the scope of its influence in today's busy world.

So we have Founders Day, and however we celebrate it at the February P.T.A. meeting, we pause to honor our Founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. We allow time for giving our members and other friends some idea of the importance of the P.T.A. in the community, the state, and the nation. We take time to recount the achievements of the local unit and to enumerate those social changes that have come about because of the consistent work of volunteers in carrying out the policies of the National Congress—policies that apply to the children and youth where we live. We do not forget that the progress we have gained and are gaining depends on combined strength of spirit as well as strength in numbers.

We remember that we owe our local unit's effectiveness, in a great measure, to the fact that millions of members in 43,000 other local units are striving for the same ideals and purposes that inspire our own leaders and members. Founders Day is an occasion to emphasize our unity of purpose in constructive service for children, wherever they are—in the family, the school, the church, and the community.

If the program for Founders Day features legislation, we will enumerate the many laws that have been enacted for the needs of children, because of the insistence of a public informed by the P.T.A. If the program features recreation, we will point with justifiable pride to the change in public attitude on the worth of recreation for constructive living. Whatever we select for the Founders Day program this year, we will recognize the power of volunteers who are dedicated to sustain the ideals and standards that will bring about a better world wherein every child may grow toward the fulfillment of his innate powers.

Magazine Promotion News

POINTERS FROM P.T.A.'s

On the Newsstands

• Remember the graphic "Six Sure-fire Ways To Raise a Heel at the Wheel" in the April 1957 *National Parent-Teacher*? Proving again the ageless quality of Magazine material, the *Lufkin News* (Texas) picked up the complete article for an October 1957 issue. Permission to reprint was secured by Mrs. Paul R. Kramer, president of the senior high school P.T.A., who also took the safety article to the press office.

New Records from Old

• Mrs. A. V. Wilson, Colorado Congress Magazine chairman and a veteran NPT subscriber, is busy studying Magazine subscription records. Then, facts at hand, she writes to council presidents on the subscription status of P.T.A.'s in their areas and sends out mailings to P.T.A.'s in unorganized areas. Personal notes also go to local unit presidents, along with sample Magazine copies. One encouraging outcome of her efforts was evident early in the school year: A high school P.T.A. raised its previous total of four subscriptions to one hundred and twenty-five.

Back Numbers to the Front

• Sixty copies of one back issue of the Magazine and a supply of the Congress publication *New Hope for Audiences* provided text material for a Florida Congress workshop on home and family life education. In charge of plans for the session were Mrs. W. L. Mussett, congress president, and Mrs. Edith McBride Cameron, state chairman of college cooperation and workshops and national chairman of the Committee on College Cooperation.

Official Magazine—Unofficial Ambassador

• The number of colorful names and addresses being entered in the *National Parent-Teacher Overseas Gift Subscription* list continues to grow. Recent additions, made by the Elm Grove P.T.A. executive committee (Robertson, Missouri), were Shinkuro Iwahara, Nara, Japan; Iqbal Kumar Aggarwal, Saharanpur, India; and the Rev. Rudolf Kuerschner, Berlin-Zehlendorf, Germany. "I only hope they enjoy NPT as much as I do," said Mrs. David Paul Chappell as she described the project. Should response to their gifts and letters be encouraging, committee members plan to promote the friendly idea among members of other P.T.A.'s in the district.



• Edward C. Dowling, mayor of Hammond, Indiana, receives a complimentary copy of the "National Parent-Teacher" Golden Jubilee issue from Mrs. Jay M. Steinmetz, NPT promotion chairman for the Indiana Congress.

How To Say Happy Birthday

• If a fiftieth anniversary of the Magazine is occasion for jubilation, succeeding birthdays and years are even more momentous, think Mrs. Abe Krovitz and Mrs. John Matthews, Magazine chairmen of the Minnesota and the Iowa congresses respectively. In their state bulletins they suggest special spurts for subscriptions at events that honor NPT's birthdays.

Teamwork Has Rewards

• After the September meeting of the Westhampton P.T.A. (Richmond, Virginia), each room representative meets with the other parents of the room he represents. Before this date, though, he enlists the aid of an ally, one who will enthusiastically pitch in at the special meeting to promote *National Parent-Teacher*. Results this year in initial orders were unusually good.

Clocking by Calendar

• "Do you have a renewal file for *National Parent-Teacher*? No? Well, then, let's get a ten-cent notebook and make one," prompted Mrs. Evan L. Davis, Oklahoma Congress Magazine chairman, in an issue of the *Oklahoma Parent-Teacher*. She followed with: "Divide your notebook into sections and label them with the months of the year. From the stubs in your receipt book, list in appropriate sections the names and addresses of persons whose subscriptions will expire. Leave room for next year's records, too. With this information, you can easily remind subscribers to renew early enough so they will get every issue."

THE P.T.A.'s AND THE SCHOOLS

THE NATION'S SCHOOLS have big needs. Each year for thirteen consecutive years enrollments have leaped to new and staggering heights. This year a record 39,094,000 children—almost a million more than last year—are in elementary and secondary schools. Every year schools need more teachers, more classrooms, more books, more desks, and more equipment. Yes, schools have big needs, and throughout the country P.T.A.'s are doing big things to meet these needs.

Lightening the Load

What have we done to help "get enough good teachers—and keep them"? Every year thousands of able young people who might become good teachers are lost to the teaching profession because they cannot afford college educations. Aware of this, parent-teacher groups have established scholarships to enable qualified students to prepare for teaching. As of December 31, 1956, forty-six state congresses had invested \$2,494,000 in education beyond the high school. Several foundations have set up large grants for the preparation of college teachers, and private corporations have given generously to scholarship funds. But it is safe to say that no other project of a voluntary organization is doing so much to alleviate the teacher shortage as the P.T.A. scholarship program. This is one of the great pioneering projects that P.T.A.'s often undertake and carry on until the entire public is convinced of their value and ready to assume citizenship responsibility for them.

In other ways P.T.A.'s are helping to recruit and keep good teachers. Through vigorous support of local school levies and state legislation, parent-teacher members have helped to improve teacher salaries and teacher tenure and retirement provisions. Where teaching loads are exceptionally heavy, P.T.A.'s supply volunteer aides to perform nonprofessional chores, such as supervising the lunchroom and recess periods, and assisting with such programs as health appraisals, vision testing, clerical and library duties, collection of savings-stamp and milk money. A typical "parent helper" project, that of the Ohlones School P.T.A. in Palo Alto, California, is described in the *National Parent-Teacher* for May 1957.

The Arkansas Congress won special recognition from the state chapter of the Future Teachers of America for its

work in encouraging future teachers. The Ohio Congress adopted the slogan "Each One Sponsor One," making every local unit responsible for recruiting one new teacher. The Georgia Congress co-sponsored a survey to locate college graduates who would be available for teaching.

Out in Front

But the teacher shortage is not the only deficit on the American education ledger that P.T.A.'s are working on. "How can we finance our schools—build and operate them?" the White House Conference on Education asked. School costs are high, and taxpayers are understandably reluctant to tax themselves unless they fully understand the need for new school funds and the resulting benefits to the community. When an increase in the school levy, a school bond issue, or some other financing proposal has come before the voters, P.T.A.'s have made it their business, first, to get the facts for themselves; second, to get the facts to the voters; and third, to get out an informed and favorable vote. For example:

- As a first step in a bond campaign, energetic P.T.A. members in Chicago, Illinois, visited 448 schools and then compiled their findings in a forthright, 105-page booklet called *Public School Needs of Chicago's School Children*.

- To put school bond issues over the top in Long Beach and in Los Angeles, California, P.T.A. members qualified themselves to handle voter registration, carried out a door-to-door information campaign, provided transportation to the polls, and "baby sat" for voters.

- In Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania, P.T.A.'s placed brochures in 11,500 homes in two days, placarded the town with posters, held open-house meetings, got statements into newspapers. And they secured a three-to-two vote for a two and a half million dollar bond issue.

- When Canterbury, New Hampshire, had borrowed to the full extent of its legal debt limit and still lacked sufficient funds, P.T.A. mothers and fathers literally rolled up their sleeves and contributed their technical skills and physical labor to build the school their children needed.

Gilt-edged Information

Public support of education depends on public interest in education, but no one can be interested in something he knows little about. What is being done to inform communities about their schools and to create public interest in education? The first project of a new P.T.A. at the Groveton High School in Alexandria, Virginia, was to prepare and distribute an informative booklet about the school. The Johnson County (Kansas) Council sponsored a conference that discussed such issues as "What do we want our schools to accomplish?" The Wisconsin Congress has a weekly educational radio program on a twelve-station network. Throughout the country state congresses did a praiseworthy job of getting the findings of the White House and state conferences to the people. Every month, the *National Parent-Teacher* focuses public attention on education in its monthly feature "What's Happening in Education?" In addition it publishes provocative, well-rounded reports on current issues—for example, on merit pay (June 1957) and on proposals for year-round operation of schools (October 1957). And every year during American Education Week in November, P.T.A.'s through massive, concentrated effort help to bring millions of citizens into their schools to see for themselves what the schools accomplish and what they need.

Expanding and Achieving

The Action Program outlines the following task in the area of school education: "To increase public efforts—local, state, and national—to meet the rapidly expanding educational needs of children and youth." Parent-teacher members have worked hard at this task but it is not finished. Although the country's teaching force is the largest in history, there is still a shortage of 135,000 qualified teachers. Although 69,200 classrooms were built last year, 159,000 more are needed. What is more, as science and technology and the atom and automation create fabulous changes and new challenges in our world, the educational needs of children expand. For the future more children need more education—education beyond the high school. Resolute determination to increase efforts to meet the "rapidly expanding educational needs of children and youth" can be a prologue to future achievements.

P.

T.

A.

BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

● **"FUN WITHOUT FRILLS"** is how the Gresham (Oregon) High School P.T.A. describes its student recreation program. Recreation nights, supervised by the parents, are held twice a month at school. During an evening of fun, the young people can participate in sports such as ping-pong, basketball, or volleyball; dance to recorded music; or just visit. It is hoped that many parents will serve as chaperones during the year and thus enjoy contacts with the school.

● **ALTHOUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IS WIDELY SCATTERED**, the P.T.A. of the Pacific Prevocational School in Seattle, Washington, is a closely knit, active group. The school serves mentally retarded, slow learning, and emotionally disturbed children of junior and senior high school age from all sections of Seattle and King County. In its efforts to gain support for the school's goals and standards, the P.T.A. has purchased books to give members a better understanding of their exceptional children. The unit is now in the process of setting up an employment program to help graduating students find jobs.

● **FOR OPEN HOUSE** in one Hawaii school, the second-graders attached mailboxes to the back of each chair to be used at the P.T.A. meeting. Parents and other visitors were invited to leave notes in the boxes, to be read by the children in class the next day.

● **THE TWO-DAY BOOK FAIR** of the Somerset School P.T.A. (Prairie Village, Kansas) got off to a good start with a talk by an author of children's books, Bill Martin, a native of Kansas. Speaking at a P.T.A. meeting previous to the fair's opening, Mr. Martin gave mothers and fathers some worthwhile facts to keep in mind as they examined and selected children's books in the display.

● **TO LIGHTEN TEACHERS' WORK LOADS** at the beginning of the fall school term, volunteers from the Strongsville (Cleveland, Ohio) P.T.A. performed a variety of duties. They registered pupils, gave room information to new pupils and their parents, and numbered new books. They lent a hand in the school cafeteria, assisting the younger children with trays and grounding them on cafeteria manners. They also rode along on the school bus the first two weeks of school to help kindergartners and first-graders learn elementary safety rules.

● **TO DISCUSS "COMMUNITY ACTION** for Juvenile Protection," the Bryan Station (Lexington, Kentucky) P.T.A. divided the school district into twelve neighborhood groups and held meetings in homes or churches in each neighborhood. A teacher and a parent served as co-leaders in each group. Then, at the unit's next regular monthly meeting, the groups summarized and evaluated their discussions.

● **A HOLIDAY PROJECT** that netted funds for the Glenbrook P.T.A. (Cleveland, Ohio) was its "Cool Yule Sale" of Christmas trees. A delegation of fifteen fathers took care of the tree hewing at the nursery, hauling the pines to a member's home near the school. The sales evening was turned into a festive affair with songs by the school glee club and the Mothersingers, community singing, and a visit from Santa Claus.



● Governor Raymond E. Gary of Oklahoma signs into law three child welfare bills—re adoption, custody, and trafficking—passed by the state legislature. Witnesses, who have more than casual interest in the bills, are (from left) Senator Howard Young; Mrs. W. Fred Scott, Oklahoma Congress president; and Mrs. Pat O. Johnson, congress legislation chairman. The pen used for the signing was presented to Mrs. Scott in appreciation of the backing given by Oklahoma Congress members.

● **UNITS IN SOUTH DAKOTA** have been asked to give themselves a 1957-58 rating on a list of nineteen accomplishments. Those that can answer yes to at least fourteen of the questions will be given special recognition by the state congress. Among the questions: "Did you receive membership dues from 50 per cent of the homes and 90 per cent of the teachers?" "Did you prepare your year's program in advance, basing it on studies of childhood and youth, or parent education, or local needs and interests?" "Did you have at least four discussion group meetings the past year, using one of the study courses outlined in the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine?" "Did you carry on a worthwhile community project during the year?"

- **"STARTING WITH THE ACTIVE MEMBERS** of our P.T.A., more than four hundred individuals, groups, and firms have, by use of their time, talents, cash, and services, contributed to the achievement of the goal of the Charlotte Amalie High School P.T.A. in having a fine organ placed in the high school auditorium." Thus began the acknowledgment list in the *Souvenir Program* of a dedication service in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, that climaxed three years of determined effort. The electronic organ, installed in St. Thomas' and the neighboring St. John's only sizable meeting place, the high school, was presented to the city.

- **THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM** and directory of the Strong School P.T.A. (Beloit, Wisconsin) is wrapped up in a cover that accents an essential for successful P.T.A. programs. At the top of it, a skillful hand has drawn a pennant, labeling it "The Winning Team." Below the pennant, a small member of the squad, the "Student," is being cheered on one side by "Teacher" and on the other by "Parents."

- **ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY AMBASSADORS** of good will go to the Grandview School in Ware, Missouri, where each classroom is setting up pen-pal relationships with a similar classroom in another country. Letters with school news, snapshots of the writers, miniature flags, and perhaps pressed flowers of a variety not found in the foreign country will express the unrestrained friendship of Grandview pupils. The program is sponsored by the P.T.A., in hopes of generating warmth of feeling among future citizens of the world.

- **MEN MAKE THE MUSIC** in the Harding P.T.A. of East St. Louis, Illinois. They have organized a fifteen-piece comedy-type band, with kazoos, a drum, a piano, and a homemade bass fiddle. The Phony-Aires, as they call themselves, play at P.T.A. functions and for benefits, and any donations they receive go into the P.T.A. treasury. Mrs. William B. Jones, unit president, believes the band has helped to bring in more fathers, as the number of men members has jumped almost 100 per cent this year.



- At the reception given by the San Francisco Museum of Art during the Sixth National Conference of the U.S. National Commission for Unesco are (from left) Luther H. Evans, director-general of Unesco, and four of the delegates: Mrs. A. L. Hendricks, National Congress vice-president; Mrs. James C. Parker, first vice-president of the National Congress; and Mr. and Mrs. Jaipaul, Indian students from the University of Nebraska.



- The Alaska Congress gets off to its membership goal of 10,000 members with a country-wide membership proclamation. Here Governor Mike Stepovich signs his proclamation in the presence of (from left) Mrs. John Horning, Alaska Congress president; Mrs. Ellen Dell Bieler, National Congress field staff member; Mrs. James M. Orr, Jr., Alaska Congress extension director; and Mrs. Jack Hutchison, first vice-president, Alaska Congress. The governor and his wife expected to give personal meaning to the announcement by joining the Fifth Street Grade School P.T.A. (Juneau) at the following week's meeting.

- **FOUR YEARS AGO** Taft High School in Chicago drew up a code of conduct for its students. The idea for the code came out of a P.T.A. meeting at which a faculty member spoke on discipline problems at the school. When parents asked, "What can we do?" the teacher pointed out the real need for a clear statement of rules the young people could follow. A committee of parents, teachers, and students was formed to draw up a code of conduct. The code, approved by the community, has been widely publicized and, according to the *Illinois Parent-Teacher*, has furnished the spark for similar codes in many other schools.

- **A SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S TV-VIEWING HABITS** by the Bay Park Grammar School (San Diego, California) disclosed that the school's youngsters were staying up too late at night watching television. (Six per cent of the first-graders, it was found, had bedtimes later than their teachers.) As a result of interest aroused by the survey, more than a hundred parents sent notes to the principal offering suggestions for better home control of children's TV viewing. The school's P.T.A. compiled a guide to good children's programs and also inaugurated a city-wide drive to get the local TV channels to change some of the good programs to hours more suitable for children.